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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yuji YAMAMOTO Examiner: T. Rude
Serial No.: 09/594,721 Group Art Unit: 2871
Filed: June 6, 2000 Docket: 048369-0117
Title: LIQUID-CRYSTAL DISPLAY PANEL AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as Express Mail (EL857559933US) with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313 on January 9, 2004..

By: _____

Richard Ruggiero
Richard Ruggiero

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (In duplicate)
- ☒ Form PTO-Form SB08
- ☒ Copies of Cited References (1)
- ☒ Return postcard

Please charge any fees associated with this transmittal to Deposit Account No: 50-0872. **A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.**

Date: January 9, 2004

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Atty. Dkt. No. 048369-0117

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yuji YAMAMOTO
Title: LIQUID-CRYSTAL DISPLAY
PANEL AND METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURING
Appl. No.: 09/594,721
Filing Date: 06/06/2000
Examiner: T. Rude
Art Unit: 2871

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56 AND 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO SB/08 is a listing of a document known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 - §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first action and of either a final action or notice of allowance under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), and is accompanied by a statement specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(E)

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) month prior to the filing of this Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding Japanese application. A copy of an English language abstract of the listed documents, if available, is being provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider this document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P § 609)

The Examiner in the corresponding Japanese Patent Application has commented as follows:

* * * * *

In a written opinion, the applicant asserts that "In Cited Literature 1 (Patent Application H10-290732), with regard to the method of forming the columnar spacer, the structure is formed in a sequence of switching element followed by interlayer film → color filter layer → pixel electrode → column → orientation film. Namely, the invention described in Cited Literature 1 has an overcoatless arrangement, which brings concerns of decreased reliability due to bleeding of impurities from the color layer, and decreased precision of column height due to variation of color film thickness.

On the other hand, the forming of the columnar spacer in the invention of the present application, unlike the invention described in Cited

Literature 1, involves forming in the sequence of switching element → color filter layer → overcoat layer → TFT side transparent pixel electrode → column → orientation film, whereby the column is formed inside the contact hole, thus making it possible to improve control of column height by reducing film thickness variation of the layer below the column.

Therefore, the invention of the present application and the invention disclosed in Cited Literature 1 are substantially different."

However, the invention as per Claims 1 through 6 as amended does not have a structure "formed in the sequence of switching element → color filter layer → overcoat layer → TFT side transparent pixel electrode → column → orientation film".

Therefore, the above assertion of the applicant is not based on the inventions according to the claims, and thus cannot be accepted.

* * * * *

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

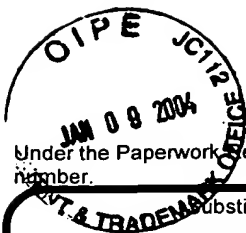
Respectfully submitted,

Date January 9, 2004

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: January 9, 2004 (use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	09/594,721		
		Filing Date	06/16/2000		
		First Named Inventor	Yuji YAMAMOTO		
		Group Art Unit	2871		
		Examiner Name	T. Rude		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	048369-0117

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A1		10-290732		Sanei Plastic KK	11/04/1994		Ab

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		T ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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